

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:
reproducing means for reproducing image data
from a recording medium;

5 determining means for detecting a reproduction
stop date when reproduction of the image data is
stopped in the past and determining a reproduction
start position in the image data on a basis of the
reproduction stop date; and

10 control means for controlling said reproducing
means so as to start the reproduction of the image
data from the reproduction start position determined
by said determining means in response to an
instruction of starting reproduction.

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2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising:

holding means for holding stop date information
indicating the date when the reproduction of the
20 image data is stopped,

wherein said determining means detects the
reproduction stop date in the past on a basis of the
stop date information held by said holding means.

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3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said determining means sets a head position of
the image data as the reproduction start position

when time period elapsing from the detected reproduction stop date to the instruction of starting the reproduction exceeds a predetermined time period.

5 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said determining means sets a predetermined
position pertaining to a reproduction stop position
in the past in the image data as the reproduction
start position when a time period elapsing from the
10 detected reproduction stop date to the instruction of
starting the reproduction is within a predetermined
time period.

 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, further
15 comprising:
holding means for holding stop position
information indicating the reproduction stop position
in the past,

 wherein the determining means determines the
20 predetermined position on a basis of the stop
position information held by the holding means.

 6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein
said determining means sets a position the
25 reproduction stop position preceding by a
predetermined time as the predetermined position.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said determining means detects a time elapsing
from the date when the reproduction of the image data
is stopped to a date of the instruction of starting
5 the reproduction, on a basis of the detected
reproduction stop date, and sets a position
corresponding to the elapsed time as the reproduction
start position.

10 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
said determining means sets a position nearer to
a head of the image data as the reproduction start
position, as the elapsed time is longer.

15 9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said detecting means includes a timer for
clocking a present time, and detects the elapsed time
period by means of an output of said timer.

20 10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said reproducing means further reproduces stop
date information indicating the date when the
reproduction of the image data is stopped, from said
recording medium, and

25 said determining means detects the date when the
reproduction of the image data is stopped, on a basis
of the stop date information reproduced by said

reproducing means.

11. A reproducing apparatus comprising:
reproducing means for reproducing image data
5 from a recording medium;
determining means for detecting a reproduction
stop date when reproduction of the image data is
stopped in the past and a reproduction stop position
at a time of the reproduction stop and determining a
10 reproduction start position in the image data on a
basis of the reproduction stop date and the
reproduction stop position; and
control means for controlling said reproducing
means so as to start reproducing of the image data
15 from the reproduction start position determined by
said determining means in response to an instruction
of starting reproduction.
12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
20 said determining means detects a time elapsing
from the date when the reproduction of the image data
has been stopped to a date of the instruction of
starting the reproduction, on a basis of the detected
reproduction stop date, and sets as the reproduction
25 start position a position preceding the reproduction
stop position by a predetermined time period
corresponding to the elapsed time.

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said determining means sets a position nearer to
the reproduction stop position as the reproduction
start position, as the elapsed period is shorter.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said determining means sets a position preceding
the reproduction stop position by a first
predetermined time, as the reproduction start
10 position when the elapsed period is within a first
period, and sets a position preceding the
reproduction stop position by a second predetermined
time longer than the first predetermined time when
the elapsed period exceeds the first period within a
15 second period longer than the first period.

15. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said control means further controls said
reproducing means so as to start reproduction of the
20 image data from the reproduction stop position in
response to an instruction of skipping to the
reproduction stop position after said control means
starts reproduction of the image data from the
reproduction start position determined by said
25 determining means.

16. An apparatus according to claim 11, further

comprising:

holding means for holding stop date information
indicating the reproduction stop date when the
reproduction of the image data is stopped and stop
5 position information indicating the reproduction stop
position in the past,

wherein said determining means determines the
reproduction start position on a basis of the stop
date information and the stop position information,
10 both held by said holding means.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said holding means stores stop date information
indicating a date when the reproduction of the image
15 data is stopped lastly, and stop position information
indicating a position where the reproduction of the
image data is stopped lastly.

18. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
20 said reproducing means reproduces the image data
pertaining to a plurality of contents from said
recording medium, and

said holding means holds the stop date
information and the stop position information every
25 plurality of contents.

19. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data
from a recording medium;

reproduction instruction means for instructing a
reproduction start of the image data;

5 stop position detecting means for detecting a
stop position of a last reproduction stop of the
image data;

reproduction position determining means for
selecting any one of a first position corresponding
10 to the stop position detected by said stop position
detecting means, a second position corresponding to a
head position of the image data, and a third position
located between the first position and the second
position as a reproduction start position according
15 to a time period elapsing from the last reproduction
stop of the image data to an instruction of the
reproduction start by said reproduction instruction
means; and

control means for controlling said reproducing
20 means so as to reproduce the image data from the
reproduction start position selected by said
reproduction position determining means in response
to the instruction of the reproduction start by said
reproduction instruction means.

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20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein
said reproduction position determining means

calculates the third position on a basis of the reproduction stop position detected by said stop position detecting means.

5 21. A reproducing apparatus for reproducing image data from a recording medium in response to a reproduction start instruction, wherein

 wherein said apparatus detects a time period elapsing from a last stop of reproduction of the
10 image data to the reproduction start instruction on a basis of stop date information indicating a date of a last stop of reproduction of the image data, and

 wherein said apparatus starts reproduction of the image data from a head of the image data when the
15 elapsed time period exceeds a predetermined time period, and starts the reproduction of the image data from a position immediately before a position of the last stop of the reproduction of the image data when the elapsed time period is shorter than the
20 predetermined time period.

 22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein
 said apparatus reads the stop date information indicating the date of the last stop of the
25 reproduction of the image data from a nonvolatile memory, and detects the elapsed time period on a basis of the stop date information.

23. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein
said apparatus reproduces the stop date
information indicating the date of the last stop of
the reproducing of the image data from the recording
5 medium, and detects the elapsed time period on a
basis of the stop date information.

24. A reproducing method comprising the steps
of:
10 reproducing image data from a recording medium;
detecting a reproduction stop date when
reproduction of the image data is stopped in the past
and determining a reproduction start position in the
image data on a basis of the reproduction stop date;
15 and
controlling said reproducing step so as to start
the reproduction of the image data from the
reproduction start position determined in said
detecting step in response to an instruction of
20 starting reproduction.

25. A reproducing method comprising the steps
of:
reproducing image data from a recording medium;
25 detecting a reproduction stop date when
reproduction of the image data is stopped in the past
and a reproduction stop position at a time of the

reproduction stop and determining a reproduction start position in the image data on a basis of the reproduction stop date and the reproduction stop position; and

5 controlling said reproducing step so as to start reproducing of the image data from the reproduction start position determined in said detecting step in response to an instruction of starting reproduction.

10 26. A reproducing method comprising the steps of:

reproducing image data from a recording medium;
instructing a reproduction start of the image data;

15 detecting a stop position of a last reproduction stop of the image data;

selecting any one of a first position corresponding to the stop position detected at said detecting step, a second position corresponding to a head position of the image data, and a third position located between the first position and the second position as a reproduction start position according to a time period elapsing from the last reproduction stop of the image data to an instruction of the reproduction start in said instructing step; and

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controlling said reproducing step so as to reproduce the image data from the reproduction start

position selected in said selecting step in response to the instruction of the reproduction start in said instructing step.

5 27. A reproducing method for reproducing image data from a recording medium in response to a reproduction start instruction, comprising the steps of:

10 detecting time period elapsing from a last stop of reproduction of the image data to the reproduction start instruction on a basis of stop date information indicating a date of a last stop of reproduction of the image data, and

15 starting reproduction of the image data from a head of the image data when the elapsed time period exceeds a predetermined time period, and starting the reproduction of the image data from a position immediately before a position of the last stop of the reproduction of the image data when the elapsed time
20 period is shorter than the predetermined time period.